(d) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure air safety norms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) An International Seminar on Flight Safety was held in New Delhi during 6-10 February, 1995.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The discussions mainly related to flight operations, airworthiness, accident/incident prevention and investigation, co-operation in matters relating to air safety etc.

(d) and (e) Steps such as implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents, monitoring of flight recorders, dissemination of safety information, periodic inspection of aerodromes, implementation of measures for eradication of bird menace, safety audit of airlines, etc. are taken to ensure observance of air safety norms.

Upgradation of Airports

151. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study conducted under a FICCI-USAID project, 35 Airports throughout India need to be upgraded; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any such report on upgradation of airports.

Rationalisation of dollar fares

152. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to rationalise the dollar fares of the Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the revised fares?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines proposes to re-fix its dollar fare at 15 per cent above the rupee fares (including Passenger Service Fee and Inland Air Travel Tax) for each sector. The average increase in the Dollar fare would be around 6 per cent.

Flights on remote air routes

153. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether private operators are unwilling to serve many remote air routes;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Indian Airlines is willing to serve the remote and uneconomical routes provided they are suitably compensated for the losses due to such flights; and

(d) is so, what are the details in this regard and what action Government have taken or propose to take to ensure flights on the remote or uneconomical routes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) All scheduled airlines (including private airlines have to provide 10 per cent of the available seat kilometers (ASK) offered in major routes (connecting major cities by non stop flights) on services to North East, J&K, Andamans and Lakshdweep.